

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
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-----066086 110226Z /66/17

P 100936Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7795

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (SUBJECT LINE)

PASS COMMERCE FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY WEIL

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: BEXP, JA, US
SUBJECT: TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE: FOREIGN
MINISTER URGES CABINET COOPERATION ON TFC CASES

1. SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER SONODA URGED ALL HIS
CABINET COLLEAGUES TO TAKE COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD
TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE (TFC) CASES. EMBASSY WILL
CONTINUE TO WORK WITH ALL RELEVANT ELEMENTS TO
FACILITATE TRADE IN TERMS OF SPIRIT OF TFC CHARTER.
END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS FOREIGN MINISTER SONODA, IN
REPORTING TO CABINET ON FUKUDA VISIT, NOTED COMPLAINTS
FROM WASHINGTON AGENCIES ABOUT FUNCTIONING OF TRADE
FACILITATION COMMITTEE. SONODA USED OCCASION OF
CABINET MEETING TO CALL FOR COOPERATION OF ALL
AGENCIES IN SETTLING TFC-RELATED PROBLEMS. ACCORDING
TO FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE MITI MINISTER KOMOTO
CONCEDED THAT TFC HAD NOT BEEN FUNCTIONING AS WELL
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AS HOPED.

3. NIHON KEIZAI "UNDERCURRENTS" COLUMN MAY 10 CARRIES
CONSIDERABLE COMMENT ON CABINET DISCUSSION WHICH HIROSHI
FUKUDA OF MOFA TELLS US IS, ACCORDING TO WHAT HE HAS
HEARD, SUBSTANTIALLY ACCURATE. FULL TEXT OF NIHON
KEIZAI STORY BEING TRANSMITTED IN UNCLASSIFIED SEPTTEL.

4. MAINICHI DAILY NEWS MAY 10 CARRIES MILD MITI REJOINDER, REMINDING PUBLIC THAT TFC TERMS OF REFERENCE NOT LIMITED TO RESOLUTION OF U.S. COMPLAINTS (ALTHOUGH EMPHASIZING THAT FOUR OF SEVEN SUCH CASES HAVE BEEN SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED), BUT ALSO INCLUDED MEASURES TO PROMOTE IMPORTS FROM U.S. INDICATING "REMARKABLE PROGRESS" RE LATTER, MITI MAINTAINS THAT NEW JETRO EFFORTS AND IKEDA IMPORT PROMOTION MISSION SHOULD ALSO BE CONSIDERED TFC SUCCESSES.

5. EMBASSY BELIEVES WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO FACILITATE U.S. IMPORTS INTO JAPAN THROUGH WHATEVER PARTS OF JAPANESE BUREAUCRACY ARE LIKELY TO PRODUCE BEST RESULTS. WE SHOULD NOT TRY TO FORCE THE PACE OF GOJ'S EFFORTS TO RESOLVE ITS BUREAUCRATIC JURISDICTIONAL PROBLEMS BY WEIGHING IN TO BUILD UP MITI'S ROLE. WHEN MITI ASSISTANCE IS LIKELY TO BE UNHELPFUL OR COUNTERPRODUCTIVE, WE WILL DEPOSIT CASE WITH TFC BUT ALSO WORK THROUGH PARALLEL CHANNELS, INITIALLY STARTING WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY AND USHIBA'S OFFICE BUT USING OUR RESOURCES DIRECTLY IN MANNER BEST CALCULATED TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS. SONODA APPEAL TO CABINET SHOULD BE HELPFUL IN ENLISTING COOPERATION OF AGENCIES AND MINISTRIES OUTSIDE MITI.

6. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMATION ABOUT TERMS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND CONTEXT IN WHICH TFC WAS DISCUSSED WITH VARIOUS JAPANESE OFFICIALS DURING FUKUDA VISIT.

MANSFIELD

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 10 may 1978
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Review Release Date: N/A
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